FBI Questions 'Tramps' at JFK Slaying Site

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Two of the three "tramps" arrested in Dallas shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 have told the FBI that they had nothing to do with it and were not on the scene until after the shooting.

Oliver B. Revell, agent in charge of the FBI's Dallas office, said yesterday that John F. Gedney and Harold Doyle were found and questioned in recent days after years of anonymity. The third, Gus W. Abrams, probably is dead, Revell said.

Their arrest sheets were found recently among Dallas police records on the assassination.

"We're not reopening the Kennedy case *per se*, but we are factually checking out any leads that do not appear to have been adequately handled," Revell said in a telephone interview.

Many conspiracy theorists have said the tramps, long known only by news photographs taken of them after they were arrested, were involved in the killing. Clean-shaven and relatively well-groomed, they were found in a freight car near the assassination site not long after Kennedy was killed Nov. 22, 1963.

They were held as "investigative" prisoners on vagrancy charges and released four days later, according to their arrest records.

Gedney, of Melbourne, Fla., and Doyle, of Klamath Falls, Ore., told the FBI that "they had spent the night at the rescue mission and were treated very nicely," Revell said.

"Both commented that they had gotten fresh clothes, showered, shaved and had a meal. They headed back to the railroad yard when they heard all the commotion and sirens and everything, and they asked what happened. They were told the president had been shot."

The FBI also plans new image enhancement of an 8-mm film taken six or seven minutes before the assassination that seems to show movement in the sixth-floor windows of the Texas School Book Depository, from which Lee Harvey Oswald is said to have fired the fatal shots.

WHOOPIE!!!
FBI INVESTIGATES "TRAMPS", or How the Nuts Feed the Feebs with Their Theories, Plus my confession of the original sin.

Although the FBI certainly knows more that Revill told Lardner and he may know more than the Post carried, this story is enough to justify my comment, the nuts' theories are useful to the FBI et al.

After hearing me on a radio broadcast in 1966, Richard Sprague, then a vice president of Touche, Bailey, wrote and asked me how he could help in the course of his business travels, which included Dallas. I suggested a search for picture and told him about some of which I'd learned that were as well as were not in what the FBI provided the Warren Commission. I remember of the known I suggested the TSBD movie film by ~~Alyea~~ Alyea, then with WFAA-TV, and of what the FBI did not report of which I knew I know I told him of the Dallas Cinema Associates collection of 8mm amateur movies. I referred him to a Mrs. Gewirtz, who was in charge, and to Rudy Brenk, who was the editor. My hope was that he could get the outtakes and he did. In the course of checking the papers he got the pictures of the three men who he, Garrison and others immediately called "the tramps." When I pointed out that no assassins would hang around to get caught they decided that these three were, literally, the CIA's paymasters! I now do not recall all the debunking I did, the first and never abandonned "identification" was of Edgar Eugene Bradley, then west-coast rep. of the right-wing Cape May, N.J. preacher, Carl McIntire. Mark Lane made a young fortune on the college circuit speaking as though for Garrison and he sure misued these "tramp" pictures then and later! He was big on Bradley. There followed a considerable volume of "identification." Weberman and Canfield were positive in their "identification" of the one called "the walking man" as E.Howard Hunt, then of Watergate fame and earlier in the CIA. Their proof was the new science of ear identification! Watergater Frank Sturgis was another "identification." Of the others, all of which I do not remember, either Garrison, Sprague or both referred to the shortest of the three as "Frenhy" because of the alleged French cut of his suit that, as Lardner reports, had just been given to him at the rescue mission where they'd spent the night before. They said "Frenchy" was LBJ's favorite massager!

Shortly after the 4.4.68 King assassination the papers carried a sketch of his alleged

assassin. It obviously had been drawn from the picture of "Frenchy" among those taken by news photographers. To me this was a fake and a disinformation. (Later I was able to trace that to Mexico City.) So I gave the local FBI agent one of the pictures and a picture of this sketch. This caused the FBI's Baltimore office to request an investigation by the Dallas FBI. Later I got the results. Before getting them I learned that Garrison was going to use his "identification" to charge an additional assassin, Bradley! and without even an irrelevant picture to use as the basis for his allegation, he was also going to charge Robert Lee Perrin with being another Grassy Knoll assassin. (Perrin had killed himself in New Orleans in 1962 and Garrison knew it.) When Andrew Sciambra and Louis Ivon asked me to try to stop this planned commemoration of the assassination, the fifth, they having failed, I sent copies of the pictures to then DA Henry Wade and a friend, and to Paul Rothermel II, then H.L.Hunt's chief of security, requesting an investigation. (Both men are former FBI special agents.) Rothermel did his own investigationg. Wade ued the professional police investigators on his staff. Both reported to me that the men were drunks found in a boxcar parked on the tracks behind the Central Annex Post Office, 217 S. Houston St., or a block west of the crime and 2 1/2 blocks south of the drime scene. This did help me prevent Garrison's additional desecration of thet tragedy.

The FBI did not gove me the results of its investgation then. I got it later in a xerox of the original FBI report. It confirms what I'd learned and it places where they were picked up farthur away. They were photographed an hour or half after the shooting.

As it now turns out the FBI did not really investigate. It could have gotten the recently disclosed police records which do give their names and the FBI could on that basis alone, the police records, have debunked the misused pictures' interpretations by making the information available to the media, along with its report, and that would have fixed Garrison and his exploiters like Lane, but good.

All the FBI did was interview the officers, one a deputy, photographed leading the men to the sheriff's office, the only way from the tracks being past the TSBD, where photographers were photographing everything that moved. It did not get the existing police records. The police also kept the whole thing to itself. This gave the nuts a diversionary field day and what perhaps is good, wasted time they might have used on other such exploits. The FBI's records disclose that it welcomes such silly stuff and uses it within the government to deprecate all criticism of the official mythology.

But these nutty inventions die hard. Just a few days ago one of the Dallas Assassination Information Center still credited the phony "confession" of a man named Holt who said he was one of them and had been CIA! <u>After</u> disclosure of the police records by more than two years without any of the Dallas critics even learning about it. Holt had "confessed" at their November 1991 symposium.

Obviously Garrison could have asked the Dallas police for their information and did not. Ditto for Stone, who kept them in his script based on Garrison's fictions. HW 3/4/92
written when he tried to decify.